MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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Israel-Morocco

The talks between Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Moroccan King Hassan II focused primarily on the Fes plan according to the joint Israeli-Moroccan communique carried by Tel Aviv IDF radio 24 July, and noted that the two sides made a thorough analysis of the situation in the Middle East and the conditions which could contribute to peace in the area. The communique revealed that the Moroccan king presented and explained the "advantages" of the Fes plan while Peres "clarified" his position on the plan and presented suggestions which he believed necessary for attaining peace. The sides also stressed that the talks were "merely an exchange of views" and "not at all intended as negotiations," the radio reported. In a statement upon his return from Morocco and broadcast by IDF radio, Peres praised the "extensive, frank, and very friendly" talks which he described as a "very important step" in the peace process. In a subsequent news conference carried by the radio, the king's "satisfaction" over the talks was noted by Peres, who nevertheless revealed that both sides realize that "there is a lot of territory to cover" and that "differences of opinion" exist.

Meanwhile, in a speech to the nation touching on the rationale and conclusions of his talks with the Israeli prime minister, King Hassan II said the meetings were conducted within the framework of the Fes plan, which he noted does not specify that contacting Israel within the plan's parameters is prohibited, according to Rabat radio. The king disclosed that Arab circumstances and Israeli circumstances dictated that he meet with Peres at this time, and he opined in particular that the "Israelis will change completely" in 4 months when the "extreme right-wing" Likud party is handed power. With regard to Arab circumstances, the king listed the various "problems" existing in the Arab world, including the various disputes and the Iranian-Iraqi war, and stressed his belief that his talks with Peres might once again force the Arabs to focus on the "essential problem," the Palestinian cause, and bring the Arabs together in a meeting in which the various inter-Arab disputes might dissipate and thereby allow them to "regroup their forces for confrontation."

Revealing Peres' rejection of the two main points of the Fes summit; namely, withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the PLO, the Moroccan monarch said he told Peres: "Good-bye. if the situation is as it is, then good-bye." Reiterating his contention that the talks were not negotiations but only a exploration of views, the king disclosed Morocco's intention to inform all Arab leaders on the talks, according to the radio.

Responding to a question at the aforementioned news conference that it "was not difficult to feel disappointment" in the king's speech, Peres said he disagreed with that assessment because of the fact that both sides agreed to further meetings and that a joint communique, although incorporating "different stands," was issued.

In further reaction to the talks, a Fatah Central Committee statement termed Peres' visit to Morocco a frank violation of Arab and Islamic summits which rejected any relations with Israel, Baghdad Voice of PLO reported. The statement condemned the visit, and asked the PLO Executive Committee to call for an Arab summit conference to face the issue, the radio continued. In Libya, meetings of Basic People's Congresses unanimously condemned the talks, calling them a shameful violation of the Ouida Treaty of unity between Libya and Morocco, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported. The people insisted on "destroying" anyone who obstructs Arab unity, the radio announced. Elsewhere, the YAR president telephoned Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the same radio reported, adding that the two leaders discussed the adoption of an Arab stance toward "treason." The Amman paper *Sawt al-Sha'b* editorialized 24 July that Jordan's main responsibility in light of the Israeli-Moroccan talks is to prevent further splits in the Arab position so that those talks could not become another "Zionist penetration" and so that Peres could not achieve his objectives so readily, stressing that Jordan's stance vis-a-vis the Palestinian question remains "constant and unchanged," the paper opined that Morocco, which is not a direct party to the Palestine question, "cannot drag any of the concerned Arab countries to an unfamiliar approach" as long as those countries continue to adhere to the "constant principles for a just comprehensive peace."

Addressing the Majlis in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed the role of "reactionary" Arab leaders in the visit of the Israeli prime minister to Morocco. Alluding to the Saudi monarch, King Hassan II, and others, Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared his certainty that the visit was planned behind closed doors by those who promote groups such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian artillery firing claimed "scores" of Iraqi casualties throughout the fronts 23 July, IRNA announced, citing a military communique. An Iraqi gunboat sunk in the Khawr 'Abdallah waters early the same day, Tehran radio's English service reported. For its part, Iraq announced further air attacks against an Iranian command headquarters and against two railway bridges, according to a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio.

Lebanon

Syrian officers informed Hizballah leaders of their determination to extend the security plan to the southern suburb at any price, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, which added that Hizballah has rejected the idea. Hizballah leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah reiterated his rejection of the security plan extension, the radio continued, noting that great tension has arisen due to a clash between Hizballah and Amal gunmen.

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Jatiya Sangsad Closes; Premier Views Martial Law

BK221728 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Jul 86

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] was prorogued this evening after an 8 day long first session. Speaker Samshud Huda Chowdhury read out the order prorogation at the close of discussions on the president's inaugural address in the afternoon session today.

Earlier, winding up the discussion on the president's speech, the leader of the house and prime minister, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, reiterated his call to the opposition to come forward and try unitedly to draw up a democratic structure for the country facing many problems. He said martial law can only be lifted through a consensus of all the 330 members of the Jatiya Sangsad and not by a single party.

The prime minister said the Jatiya Sangsad will be convened again if the opposition agrees to attend the session to find out ways and means to end martial law.

Minister Zahid: Opposition Prolonging Martial Law

BK211612 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 86

[Excerpt] The deputy leader of the house and deputy prime minister, Mr Moudud Ahmed, has said martial law was declared in the country under some special circumstances and it may be withdrawn in phases only. Participating in the discussion on the president's address to the Jajiya Sangsad [parliament] in the afternoon session of parliament today, he said martial law is still in force in the country to avoid administrative vacuum and it will be lifted as soon as the president is elected. The deputy prime minister also refuted various allegations of the opposition leader as published in a section of the press.

Earlier in the morning session, Information Minister Anwar Zahid said national consensus is a must for transition to democracy and on the basis of this consensus alone the Jatiya Sangsad can find out ways and means to solve the problems confronting the nation. Referring to the opposition stand for not taking part in the Sangsad session unless martial law is lifted, the information minister said they are virtually prolonging martial law by adopting such an attitude. [passage omitted on names of members who took part in today's discussions]

Joint Industrial Committee With India Ends Session

BK201612 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 86

[Text] The industrial committee of the Bangladesh-India joint commission ended its final session in Dhaka today. During its 2-day session, the committee identified areas of industrial cooperation in the fields of cement, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, sugar, and steel. The meeting also deliberated upon the possibility of assistance to Bangladesh in the small and cottage-industries sector. The decision for cooperation was taken after the committee reviewed the reports of experts committee. The Bangladesh side at the meeting was led by the additional secretary, Ministry of Industries, Mr M.H. Khan; while the Indian side by the joint secretary, Ministry of Industries, Mr S.K. Lal. The Indian delegation will go to Paulash urea fertilizer factory tomorrow.

Industrial Cooperation Pact Signed

BK230412 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Bangladesh and India have signed agreed minutes for mutual cooperation in the implementation of the development projects covered under the joint committee on industries. The agreed minutes were signed following 4 days of deliberations of the industrial committee of Bangladesh-India joint economic commission in Dhaka yesterday.

AFP: 19,000 Troops on Offensive Against Sikhs

BK231456 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Chandigarh, India, July 23 (AFP) — Nineteen thousand paramilitary personnel are involved in a massive security offensive against Sikh separatists in the northern Indian state of Punjab, official sources said here on Wednesday. The personnel are from the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force, the sources said.

Inspector-General of Punjab Police (crime) R. Sarangal said 107 militants had been held in the last 20 days. A confusing range of arrest figures given by security officials — putting the total anywhere between 100 and 300 — have been quoted in the Indian media since a crackdown began earlier this month.

The offensive, which began on Friday in the Mand River area, has been expanded to four districts bordering Pakistan — Amritsar, Ferozepur, Kapurthala and Gurdaspur. The police announced at the weekend that 105 people had been arrested in the Mand area, but admitted that most were petty criminals with no links to the Sikh campaign for an independent state.

Press reports have accused the police and paramilitary forces of inflating the arrest figures and alleged that few militants had been caught. A police spokesman here said that of 38 militants wanted by the authorities, seven had been killed in clashes in the last two months. Four more were arrested and one escaped from police custody.

Punjab Home Minister Kanwaljit Singh admitted that the operation had not been a complete success because several wanted militants had escaped the police dragnet.

PRC Troops Reported Still Inside Border

NC231914 Paris AFP in English 1904 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 23 (AFP) — An aerial survey of India's eastern frontier region Wednesday identified nearly 100 Chinese soldiers on the Indian side of the border, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported.

The survey followed last week's charge by New Delhi that China had last month intruded some six to seven kilometres (about four miles) into Indian territory in the tiny border territory of Arunachal Pradesh. The survey of the region was led by Gegong Apang, the chief administrator of the federally-ruled territory, PTI said.

Mr Apang was quoted as telling journalists in the eastern Indian port city of Calcutta Wednesday that "about 100 Chinese intruders were identified inside our territory." He did not elaborate, saying he had submitted a detailed report on the situation in the frontier region to the federal government. Mr Apang was in Calcutta on his way to the Indian capital, where he has been summoned by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, PTI said.

Wednesday's aerial survey coincided with the close of the seventh round of Sino-Indian border talks in Beijing.

Delhi: Pakistan Wants U.S. To Upgrade Fighters

BK240340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Pakistan is seeking a deal with U.S. defense firms to put American engines and avionics techniques into its Chinese built F-7 fighter jets. The agency reports, quoting U.S. officials, say that Pakistan is investigating the cost of using the upgraded Chinese-built F-7 with American techniques toward modernization of its air force. The report further says the U.S. Government is ready to approve such a deal.

Parliament Welcomes Commonwealth Games Boycott

BK211303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 86

[Text] India's decision to boycott the Commonwealth games was welcomed unanimously by the Lok Sabha today. Members from all sides of the house greeted with thumping of desks a statement in this regard made by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro. Announcing the decision, Mr Faleiro said it is an expression of our solidarity with the people of South Africa and with the Frontline States. He said India still hopes that concerted action by the Commonwealth to implement necessary economic measures to end apartheid in South Africa will follow soon.

Mr Faleiro said the government kept in close touch with the governments of the Frontline States. The prime minister was personally in contact with leaders of some of these states in an effort to work out some formula so that the games could be salvaged. The government's endeavor was to explore every possible avenue so that our athletes could have the opportunity to compete in the games. Unfortunately, Mr Faleiro pointed out, some of the recent statements of the British Government have left no doubt in our minds that they are not immediately prepared to implement even the minimum measure with all the Commonwealth countries as agreed to at Nassau. Mr Faleiro made a similar statement in the Rajya Sabha.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Nicaraguan Policy

BK221004 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 86

[Text] India is to help Nicaragua develop its agriculture and small industries. Details are being worked out. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, who gave this information in the Rajya Sabha today, said these areas were identified by a team of experts which visited Nicaragua recently.

Replying to supplementaries, the minister said India is following the UN Charter of noninterference and nonuse of force while supporting the right of the Nicaraguans to elect a democratic government. He said majority of the 33 countries which took part in the Security Council meeting to discuss the situation in Central America were critical of the U.S. policy in the region. India, on its part, wants that Nicaragua and the U.S. settle their problems peacefully.

Karachi Cites Junejo Interview on U.S. Visit

BK230536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo is arriving in Paris this morning on a 2-day visit. Radio Pakistan's special correspondent Safdar Ahad reports the prime minister's visit was scheduled for 1 day, but at the request of the French prime minister it has been extended to 2 days. [passage omitted]

In an interview with the editorial board of *Time* magazine, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said he would call on President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Chirac in Paris. Mohammad Khan Junejo said no agenda has been fixed for his talks with President Mitterrand.

The prime minister described his talks with President Reagan as fruitful and said Pakistan-U.S. relations are very good. In reply to a question on the second agreement for U.S. aid to Pakistan, the prime minister said this matter was finalized 2 months before his arrival in Washington.

On the domestic situation, the prime minister reiterated that there is no possibility of an early election as there are no presing problems that require a fresh mandate from the people. His government will serve the people and will implement its 5-point program before the next elections in 1990. Mohammad Khan Junejo said his government considers that without opposition parties, democracy cannot be established. Therefore, if the opposition parties keep themselves within the framework of the constitution he will not impose any restrictions. He added that he wants the opposition parties to consolidate themselves and present their charter before the people.

On Pakistan's relations with India, the prime minister said it appears that Rajiv Gandhi is interested in improving relations with Pakistan. He reiterated that Pakistan does not have any intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons and its atomic program is entirely peaceful. Its objective is to fulfill the energy needs of the country. On narcotics control, the prime minister said his government will enforce strict legislation to end the drug trade in Pakistan. This includes confiscation of property and imprisonment. [passage omitted]

Urges More U.S. Investment

BK190544 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 86

[Text] Mohammad Khan Junejo has invited U.S. businessmen to invest in Pakistan and said the investment climate in Pakistan is very favorable and foreign investment will enjoy full protection. The prime minister told the Radio Pakistan correspondent that he had a very useful exchange of views with officials of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said he briefed these officials on the government's economic policies, which provide ideal opportunities to foreign investors to set up joint projects with Pakistani industrialists. He said investors can repatriate their investment whenever they like. The prime minister said U.S. businessmen and industrialists have shown strong interest in Pakistan's economic progress.

The prime minister said he had a useful exchange of views on matters of mutual interest with U.S. Treasury Secretary James A. Baker and World Bank President Barber Conable. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere.

Technology Accord Hailed

BK181027 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Jul 86

[Text] The agreement on the transfer of strategic and advanced technology signed in Washington would enable Pakistan to accelerate its industrial development. Under it, Pakistan would be able to obtain access to the latest technology for establishing modern industry. This has been stated in an official statement. It described the agreement as the concrete achievment of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's visit to the United States. The statement said it was a tribute to the close relations between Pakistan and the United States that the agreement was finalized in a record time of a few days.

Iranian Envoy on Differences over Afghanistan

GF161224 Lahore JANG in Urdu 12 Jul 86 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi — Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mir Mahmud Musavi has said that Iran and Pakistan differ on the Afghanistan issue and that Iran was against the Geneva talks. In an interview with JANG yesterday, he said: Iran's stance on the Afghanistan issue is that after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, forces of no other superpower should enter that country; this is an internal problem for the Afghan people and it should be resolved without foreign interference. The Iranian ambassador said the Geneva talks will end without any result. The ambassador added: Despite the differences between Iran and Pakistan on this issue, Iran has supported Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan issue in international forums.

Replying to a question on the Iran-Iraq war, the Iranian ambassador said Iran will continue the war until the Saddam regime falls; there is no other way to end the war, he said. When asked whether Mas'ud Rajavi, an opponent of the Iranian regime who is now in Baghdad, would pose any problems for the Islamic Republic's Government, he responded: Mas'ud Rajavi is no political challenge to the Iranian regime; he is dead politically.

MALDIVES

Bangladesh's Ershad, Gayoom Hold Official Talks

BK221621 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 86

[Excerpts] Official talks between President Ershad and President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives were held in Male this afternoon. The two presidents had half an hour of (?separate) talks. Later they were joined by their aides. President Ershad was assisted among others by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Deputy Minister for Education Zeyauddin Ahmed, Information Consultant to the President Tajul Islam and the Bangladesh high commissioner to the Maldives. The Maldives president was assisted by his Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel, Minister for Fisheries Abdul Sattar Didi, Minister of State Abbas Ibrahim and the Acting Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Abdul Rashid Hussain [title as heard].

Briefing newsmen, the foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, said there were in-depth discussions on various matters relating to intensification of bilateral relations. They also discussed ways and means to increase trade contacts between the two countries. The two sides agreed to explore the possibility of establishing direct air links to connect the capitals of the two countries under the framework of SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The two sides also discussed steps to develop tourism between the two countries. It was also agreed on increased cooperation in the field of telecommunications. [sentence as heard].

After the talks an agreement was signed on cooperation in the field of sound broadcasting. The foreign ministers of the two countries signed the agreement. A protocol was also signed under the existing cultural cooperation between them. Bangladesh High Commissioner to Maldives Mr A.S. Nur Mohammad and the senior under secretary of Maldives Foreign Ministry, Mr Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, signed the protocol. President Ershad and President Maumoon witnessed the signing ceremony. President Maumoon is hosting a state banquet at the Islamic center in Male tonight in honor of President Ershad. [passage omitted]

Earlier, President Ershad was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Male on a 2-day state visit to Maldives. [passage omitted]

From Maldives President Ershad will go to Colombo on Thursday [24 July] for talks with Sri Lankan President Jayewardene. On Saturday [26 July] the SARC chairman, President Ershad, will reach Pakistan on the last leg of his current 3-nation tour at the invitation of President Ziaul Haq. The president was seen off at the Zia International Airport this morning by deputy chief martial law administrators, prime minister, ministers, diplomats and high civil and military officials.

Ershad Speaks at Banquet

BK230820 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said the cooperative framework as stipulated in the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] can play a most useful role in improving the economic and political climate in the region. He was speaking at the state banquet hosted in his honor by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives at the Islamic Center in Male last night. President Ershad spoke of the rationale and justification for a regional framework in South Asia. He said it will be his constant endeavor to promote the objectives of SARC and transfer them into reality. The countries in the region, he said, should now consolidate again to move into a more dynamic (?phase) of cooperation to yield tangible and visible benefits to the 100 crore people in the region.

Presdent Ershad spoke (?about Bangladesh's) efforts for peace in the world. With this objective Bangladesh has always opposed imperialism, colonialism, (?neocolonialism,) racialism and domination of [words indistinct] a manifestation. Bangladesh condemns the apartheid policy of South Africa and its acts of aggression against the neighboring countries. The president also spoke of his government's concern for the situation in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and the war between Iraq and Iran.

The president said Bangladesh is equally concerned over the current international economic situation which has seriously affected the development prospects of the developing nations. To redress this situation the creation of a new international economic order is essential, he added. President Ershad noted with satisfaction that relations between the Maldives and Bangladesh are developing steadily both bilaterally and in the context of SARC.

Speaking on the occasion, the Maldives president said if the momentum generated [words indistinct] maintained SARC will achieve its goals and objectives. The SARC, he said, is a collective investment for the mutual benefit of all (?seven) countries. It is the promise for a better future of the region. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom called for a nuclear free zone in South Asia. Replying to [words indistinct] help achieve the final aim of nuclear free and peaceful role.

The banquet was attended by among others Begum Raushan Ershad, Mrs Mehsina Gayoom and the members of the entourage of the visiting president. [passage omitted]

SRI LANKA

AFP: Bus Blast in North Kills 25, Wounds 40

BK241109 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 24 (AFP) — At least 25 passengers were killed and more than 40 wounded when a bomb exploded in a crowded bus in northern Sri Lanka on Thursday, a military spokesman here said. However, reports from the area said the death toll could rise to 40.

The bus was travelling from Vavuniya in the northern province to Medawachchiya in the north central province when the bomb went off at a village near its destination. Most of those killed were members of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority, the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

President Holds Further Talks With Tamil Leaders

BK231132 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] President Jayewardene had another round of talks with the TULF yesterday. The seven senior moderate Tamil leaders flew into Colombo after 18 months break. With yesterday's talks lasting 150 minutes, the two sides had spent 15 hours in their efforts to sort out differences and agree on a solution to a 3-decade-old Tamil problem. TULF President M. Sivasithampram said yesterday's talks were mainly on law and order problems. He said TULF leaders will meet the SLFUP on Thursday morning before leaving for Madras. The TULF also had a separate meeting with Lands and Mahawerli Minister Gamini Dissanayake and Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel. The subjects covered in the talks with the ministers were land settlement and funding of the provincial councils.

Parties Conference Endorses Reports on Autonomy

BK231609 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 23 (AFP) — A conference of Sri Lankan political parties appealed on Wednesday to Tamil separatist groups to present proposals for ending their war of secession peacefully and without dividing Sri Lanka. The conference, called to discuss government proposals for a political solution to the conflict, adjourned after a plenary session open to the press having endorsed the reports of five committees appointed to study aspects of granting autonomy to Sri Lanka's provinces.

A resolution moved at the session, attended by eight of Sri Lanka's major parties, recommended that the conference be summoned again once government discussions with the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, are finished.

The TULF was invited to the conference but refused to come. However, it held parallel discussions with the government on the latter's proposal for autonomy.

All the political parties present are keen that the Tamil guerrilla groups fighting for a separate state in the largely Tamil north and east of the country be brought into the negotiations for a political settlement.

The general secretary of the Sri Lanka People's Party, Vijaya Kumaranatunga, asked President Junius Jayewardene to arrange a ceasefire with the militants. When Mr. Jayewardene asked how this could be done, Mr. Kumaranatunga said that he could help arrange it.

Mr. Kumaranatunga met Tamil separatist leaders earlier this month in the southern Indian city of Madras and discussed ways of halting the conflict.

Earlier, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali accused the leading Tamil separatist group of being uninterested in a political settlement. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Tamil 'Tigers' Uninterested in Peace

BK230829 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 23 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's security minister Wednesday accused the leading Tamil extremist group of being uninterested in a political settlement to the Tamil crisis, as peace talks headed for a three week recess.

Lalith Athulathmudali made his accusation as security sources blamed the group — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) — for destroying a bus in northern Sri Lanka, killing 31 and injuring about 25 others.

Most of the victims of Tuesday's land mine attack, near the northern town of Vavuniya, belonged to Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community. A security source said an intercepted radio message between LTTE officials based in Madras, southern India, and northern Sri Lanka indicated the group had blasted the bus.

Mr. Athulathmudali said talks between the government and the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front "are going ahead." "But the LTTE does not want any accord to come out of these talks," he added. The daily *Observer* newspaper also quoted unnamed ministerial sources as saying the LTTE was out to wreck the talks because it did not want to see a political settlement.

The five-member TULF delegation is planning to brief the five Tamil extremist groups now based in Madras on President Junius Jayewardene's offer to give Tamils a bigger political voice through elected provincial councils.

Appapillai Amirthalingam, the TULF general secretary, said the party's Madras-based politburo would also assess the situation before both discusions resume in mid-August. The recess would officially begin Wednesday night after a meeting with Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake, Mr. Amirthalingham said.

The TULF delegation planned to leave Thursday after a meeting with former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), which has rejected Mr. Jayewardene's Indian-sponsored proposal.

Mr. Amirthalingam told *Agence France Presse* that while "finality had not been reached" on any of the bargaining points, there was a "measure of understanding" in some areas.

Government sources said the talks "have not been disappointing in the circumstances." Meanwhile, the government-sponsored political parties' conference — a gathering of Sri Lankan parties excluding the SLFP and the TULF — will meet Wednesday to

discuss key issues, conference sources said. The points include the general devolution of power to the proposed provincial councils, law and order, and land settlement, they said.

600,000 Stateless Tamils To Be Granted Citizenship

BK240322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan rural industries development minister, Mr Thondaman, says about 6 lakh stateless Tamils will be given Sri Lankan citizenship soon under the new law passed by the government. Talking to newsmen in Madurai yesterday, he said about 95,000 Tamils who were offered Indian citizenship under the Srimavo-Shastri pact did not apply for it, but the Sri Lankan Government had agreed to give citizenship to them and to their children totalling about 1.5 lakh. Mr Thondaman said Colombo had also agreed to give citizenship to 375,000 Tamils under the pact. Of them 2 lakh people have already got it. Mr Thondaman added that a 3-member committee consisting of himself, the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, and another Sri Lankan minister had been formed to give citizenship in all to 6 lakh Tamils.

Further Reaction to Peres-Hassan Talks in Morocco

Rafsanjani Speaks of Arab 'Treason'

LD231432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] The majlis held an open session today. During the session, in connection with the visit to Morocco by the prime minister of the Zionist regime, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the assembly, delivered a speech, which you will now hear:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Regrettably we have once again been witness to treason by one of the leaders of the Islamic countries, the Moroccan sovereign, chairman of the Arab League and host to conferences of Arab heads of state. His impudence has reached a level as to welcome the prime minister of usurping Israel in the Islamic country of Morocco, and he is now playing host to this criminal, Zionist element.

We are witnessing today how Arab reaction, with its two branches and one single root, is (?betraying) the Islamic world and its interests and serving colonialism and arrogance. The reactionary Persian Gulf shaykhs, in the economic field, have sacrificed the Islamic countries' resources and interests to the whims and covetous designs of Western capitalists, reducing the price of oil to less than one-third within a few months. They are still persisting with their wrongdoing and crime, despite the fact that it is now clear to all — and has even aroused the protests of the Western oil merchants — that they are now dealing a blow at world oil resources.

In the political field, which is complementing the above economic crime, however, their brother, the Moroccan King Hassan is disgracefully and shamelessly continuing the path begun years ago by the deceased Al-Sadat, and are thereby perpetrating this measureless iniquity against the Islamic nations.

The real truth remains that the nature of Arab reaction is one of toadying subservience. Whenever throughout history their masters decided to ask them in what circumstances they would perpetrate such crimes — and in recent times this means since the day the Zionists set foot in the Middle East — whenever and in whatever circumstances their masters desired, they carried out whatever crime they dictated. With all fairness there is no greater disgrace than those people who consider themselves the servants of the holy shrines [a reference to the Saudi monarch], the chairman of the Arab League, or the chairmen of the Islamic conference to make such a public display of infamy. Those who up to yesterday — if a world trading company were to establish economic ties with Israel they would have boycotted it and would not have allowed it to carry out its transactions — today have sunk so low as to become hosts to the prime minister of usurping Israel and to do so proudly, too, while deeming such action as moderation and stability. Even more degrading is the fact that now after the passage of a number of years since Camp David — when on that day certain Arab countries reacted seriously, albeit hypocritically — we are witnessing today that most Arab countries are silently sitting like corpses watching this hideously tragic scenario. Only Syria, which is beset with problems more than all the Islamic countries and is carrying the burden of confrontation with Israel, Syria alone is the one that breaks off relations. How degrading and sad this must be for the Islamic world! I do not know what else the peoples of the Islamic countries expect? What other hopes prompt them to tolerate the overlordship of these satans and servants of the United States and Britain? This is so ugly that even impartial observers who are not in the least linked with the Palestine problem consider this as the worst form of capitulationism.

In circumstances when southern Lebanon is being subjected daily to a hail of shells; in circumstances when the Palestinians are daily subjected to pressure; where do these people seek the solution and what do they see in this conventional banquet? [as heard] The middleman of Zionism, arrogance and colonialism, the Jordanian King Husayn, as you can see is daily either in Egypt, in Iraq, here and there or in Saudi Arabia to further these ends.

Those Arab countries who — for the least thing that may afflict the shaykhs, create pandemonium and issue joint communiques — we find them not only silent on such a problem, but are rejoicing from the bottom of their hearts and are supporting it. We know for certain that this horrible scenario has been concocted behind closed doors by these very people who boast of such organs as the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, are the orchestrators of the Islamic Conference, or have some influence in Palestine organizations. It is these very people who are propagating these fables — and perhaps the worst in this lies in the fact that they are terrified by the victory of the Islamic Republic, whereas if these people had remained on the side of the Islamic Republic, had not imposed this war on us, the might of these selfless, Muslim people of ours would have saved them from the evil of Israel and would have terminated U.S. influence in the region.

The movement begun by the Islamic Republic is the best witness that one could stand up to all the criminals. But now that they see Saddam is disintegrating and is moving toward his downfall — and once this redoubt of theirs has fallen Israel would be jeopardized — they have been panicked into undertaking such actions. But let them know that the Islamic nations most decidedly will not tolerate such infamous and abject deeds, and the day will come when they will wreak such utter nemesis on these venal capitulationists!

We call on all the Islamic nations, particularly the Palestine nation, to learn a lesson from these issues; to choose their own path; not to entertain any hopes of the possibility that such governments would wrest the right of the Palestine people for them; and that no other path exists except that of arms, anger, and revolutionary wrath for the salvation of Palestine and the expulsion of arrogance. And peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [end recording]

Musavi: Al-Sadat Fate Awaits Hassan

LD241036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who had gone to the holy city of Mashhad to

attend the Imam Reza's congress, returned to Tehran last night. Before leaving Mashhad, the prime minister, in an interview with the Central News Unit, commented on the visit of the Jerusalem-occupying regime's prime minister to Morocco. He said: Kings have always betrayed their nations and King Hassan's treason is the worst so far. The prime minister added: I believe that the same fate which befell the annihilated Al-Sadat is awaiting the shah of Morocco too; the great Islamic ummah will never forgive this treachery and these individuals will receive their punishment.

The prime minister continued: This gang of leaders of the Islamic countries should realize that it is the Islamic ummah who will determine Israel's future destiny. Despite their compromise the Islamic ummah is determined to uproot Israel as a malignant tumor, and the struggle will continue until realization of this aspiration. Turning to the consequences of this treacherous deed, Musavi said: What we know of the Muslim people throughout the world and our experience in this field tells us that the trip of the Jerusalem-occupying regime to Morocco will speed up the revolutionary movement of the Moroccan people, since Islam is alive there, and today all Islamic nations are returning to Islam and the Koran. Such events, instead of halting the people's movement, brings forward their revolutionary leap. The prime minister also said: The annihilated shah also resorted to similar measures during the final days of his reign. For instance, he changed the Islamic calendar to an imperial one; we witnessed then how such measures accelerated our people's revolution. The same will happen in Morocco.

As a conclusion of his interview given to the Central News Unit correspondent in Mashhad, the prime minister said: The trip of the Jerusalem-occupying regime's prime minister to Morocco will leave traces in the Arab ranks and in the ranks of those who claim to be defending the rights of Palestine people in their confrontation with Israel. It will reveal their true colors, which will be very useful to nations and the great Islamic ummah, and will be a step forward toward the awakening of Muslims.

Cabinet Ministers Condemn Talks

LD231154 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — The Cabinet ministers held a session here Wednesday, chaired by Minister of Construction Jihad, Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, and discussed latest domestic and foreign developments. During the session, the ministers condemned the trip of the Zionist regime's prime minister to Morroco and his talks with King Hassan as a plot to strike a blow upon the ideals of Muslims.

The cabinet ministers also stressed the necessity of a reaction by Arab and Muslim nations and governments against this plot.

Rafsanjani on Ending 'Blackmail' by War Effort

LD231308 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Wednesday that Muslim forces of Iran should bring the Iraqi-imposed war to a stage to force imperialism to abandon blackmail, and prevent heads of Arab states from being blackmailed.

The Majlis speaker, speaking at a seminar of commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), said that at this stage Iranian forces will deal another blow on the Zionist regime, Iraq and its supporters.

Rafsanjani also called on officials to make further efforts to provide IRGC with its needed 500 combat battalions and to employ the country's potential for the war efforts.

Musavi Addresses Meeting of War Disabled

LD231719 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Mashhad, July 23, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi hailed the Iranian Muslim nation for successfully standing up to imperialist plots and defeating them here Wednesday.

The prime minister made the remark to a gathering of disabled victims of the Iraqi imposed war. He also lauded the Muslim combatants for their victorious struggle against imperialist powers.

Said the premier, "It is not the flesh of men which makes history but their noble ideals and their willingness to sacrifice themselves for them.

"You have given your limbs to realize the lofty goals of Islam and frustrate the plots of the imperialist oppressors of mankind", he told the gathering.

Musavi said that the oppressed people of the world cannot help but be inspired by the example of the Iranian Muslim combatants to remain free from the claws of the likes of such imperialist powers as the U.S. Government.

The premier arrived in Mashhad Tuesday night where he was welcomed by high ranking officials of Khorasan Province. He visited the shrine of the eighth Shi'ite Imam Reza (AS) on Wednesday morning.

Says Oil Price Fall 'Plot'

LD231806 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Prov., July 23, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Wednesday that rapid fall in the price of oil was perhaps the last plot engineered by the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The prime minister made the remarks in a meeting with provincial theologians in which he also said that the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have so far done all within their power to defeat the revolution.

He said because the Islamic Revolution has jeopardized the interests of the superpowers, they are trying with all their available means, to either defeat it or force it to compromise with

them. But, Musavi said, the Islamic revolution will continue to stand firm against its enemies despite all difficulties.

The plot to keep down the price of oil has merely made the Iranian nation more determined to attain economic independence, the prime minister said, noting that Iran has taken basic measures to this end.

Montazeri Meets With Hajj, Libyan Officials

LD231245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, on the eve of his trip to the house of God [Mecca], last night met and conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. In the course of this meeting, after presenting a detailed report on this year's planned services and cultural programs for the Hajj, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri praised their services and paid tribute to all the individuals involved in the preparation for the great Hajj rituals. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri issued instructions on ways of making better use of the great Hajj rituals.

Referring to the role played by many Arab governments and particularly Saudi Arabia in the conspiracy of falling oil prices, and while referring to the new act of treason of the king of Morocco against Islam and the Arab nation in connection with his meeting with the prime minister of the Jeruusalem occuping regime, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously said: Unfortunately, all these bereavements of Islam and the Muslims are inflicted by leaders of some Islamic countries who establish such relations with the enemies of Islam and the Koran, and pay no attention to the interests of Islam and their own countries.

At the conclusion of this meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, while stressing the need for better awareness of the Muslims and their unity vis-a-vis conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and the Koran, said prayers for final victory of the combatants of Islam and good health and long life of the imam of the Ummah.

Mr Sa'd Mujbir, the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi's special envoy, also met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. During this meeting, Mr Mujbir conveyed greetings of Col al-Qadhdhafi and his appreciation and gratitude for the support of the Islamic republic of Iran. He also presented a report to his eminence on the U.S. military attack on Libya.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,551

LD231638 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — Scores of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 16 bunkers and observation posts, three vehicles, two command jeeps and one mortar launcher of theirs destroyed in fighting with Iranian forces throughout the fronts on Tuesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff communique number 2551 [number as received] said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two enemy military vehicles destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian forces in Hajj 'Umran in the northwestern fronts, on Tuesday. Enemy fire was also silenced.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces pounded Iraqi positions on Tuesday killing or wounding some Iraqi soldiers and destroying five bunkers and observation posts together with one 120 mm mortar launcher of theirs.

The communique said that over the same period Iranian patrol units reconnoitered Iraqi positions and dealt blows to them in the western fronts.

In the southern fronts, three Iraqi bunkers and observation posts were destroyed and enemy troops were prevented from carrying out military operations when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahe-Anbar and Majnun Islands Tuesday were forced to flee when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire, according to the communique.

Elsewhere the communique said that several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two command jeeps, one military vehicle and at least six bunkers of theirs destroyed in parts of the southern fronts when Iranian gendarmerie forces shelled their positions.

Navy Sinks Iraqi Gunboat

LD232025 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, last night a gunboat belonging to the Iraqi Navy was hit by the amphibious combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps ground forces and sunk in the Khawr 'Abdallah waters along with all its crew. Also starting early hours of this morning, the (Al-Ummayiah) jetty of Iraq and its oil installations were made targets of the coastal artillery gun fire of the navy of the Islamic army and sustained considerable damage, while the flames welling [as heard] into the sky from the (Al-Ummayiah) oil jetty of Iraq could be seen for hours [words indistinct].

Iraqis Bomb Sanandaj

LD241028 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Sanandaj Prov., July 24, IRNA — Twenty civilians are reported to have been martyred as a result of Iraqi bombardment of this provincial capital Thursday morning.

The Iraqi attack on Sanandaj came two days after the raid of the Kurdish city of Marivan which claimed lives of four civilians, and raid on a village south of Tehran Wednesday which injured seven people.

Score [as received] of people including women and children were injured who were immediately taken to hospitals. A number of homes have been partially or totally damaged. Among those martyred are eight children and five women.

War Information Warns Iraq on Residential Raids

LD240919 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Thursday warned the Baghdad rulers on consequences of their raids on Iranian cities and called on the U.N. to prevent Iraq from attacking Iran's residential areas. It also urged the U.N. to make the Baghdad regime respect the June 12, 1984 agreement. Otherwise, the Islamic Republic will be forced to retaliate, the statement issued here Thursday added.

The statement released following recent attacks of Iraq on Iranian residential areas including the Kurdish city of Marivan and a village near Tehran, added that the Iraqi rulers have experienced the futile results of their brutal measures in attacking residential areas during the Iraqi imposed war. It has been proven to the Baghdad regime that such moves have no results other than strengthening the will of the Iranian nation to continue their defence until the punishment of the aggressor. However, it said, the latest Iraqi attacks show that Baghdad insists on continuation of such policy.

Although the Islamic Republic has never initiated attacks on civilian targets and constantly and as much as possible has avoided hurting civilians, resumption of the Iraqi attacks will make the Muslim combatants retaliate severely.

Knowing that the Baghdad rulers neither respect international regulations including the June 12, 1984 agreement nor human values, the Islamic Republic once again warns the international organisations especially the U.N. to stop the Iraqi attacks before the Muslim forces of Iran will be forced to give a suitable reply, concluded the statement.

Captured Iraqi Officers Interviewed on Defeats

GF231044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] Five high-ranking Iraqi commanders captured by Iran during the Karbala-1 operations have explained in a radio and television interview [word indistinct] why Saddam has adopted a new strategy of mobile defense and that its failure has brought much misfortune for the Iraqi army and the Iraqi people. These commanders are Staff Colonel Vesiyar Ahmad Naqdi, head of the 27th Division Headquarters and commander of the 24th Mechanized Brigade; Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad 'Ali Mahdi, successor to the commander of the 71st Infantry Brigade; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdullah 'Abd al-Hakim Sa'id, commander of the reserve regiment of the 40th Iraqi Division; Lieutenant Colonel Rahim Khalaf, commander of the 1st Regiment of the 705th Infantry Brigade; and Lieutenant Colonel Sa'id 'Abd al-Habib, commander of the 3rd Regiment of the 705th Brigade of the Iraqi Army. They appeared in a roundtable interview on Iranian radio and television.

First, the head of the 27th Division Headquarters and commander of the 24th Mechanized Brigade of Iraq admitted that many Iraqi officers had been captured in the Karbala-1 operation that resulted in his presence at the interview.

After him, Lt Col Rahim Khalaf, commander of the 1st Regiment of the 705 Iraqi Infantry Division, explained why Saddam had adopted the new strategy of mobile defense that resulted in the major defeat at Al-Faw, an important city. He said Saddam adopted the strategy in order to make up for the defeat at Al-Faw. It was adopted after the Islamic forces had liberated Al-Faw and Iraq had suffered heavy casualties in the operation, and because all later attempts to recapture Al-Faw had failed, resulting in fear and concern gripping the Iraqi forces.

Another reason for adopting the unsuccessful strategy was Saddam's desire to regain face after losing the Al-Faw port area. It was also adopted because the reactionary Arab regimes backing Saddam had lost all faith in the Iraqi Army after its defeat at Al-Faw.

According to him, another of Saddam's objectives in adopting the new strategy was to gain series of small victories to boost the morale of the Iraqi army. Saddam also wanted the new strategy because it would lessen Iranian pressure on the Iraqi forces.

Lt Col 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Hakim Sa'id, commander of the reserve regiment of the 40th Iraqi Division, also spoke at the interview. He said that the morale of the Iraqi forces had plunged after the defeat at Al-Faw. Because of the heavy casualties the Iraqi Army had suffered, nobody in Iraq believed that the Iraqi Army was capable of gaining even small victories after the Al-Faw fiasco. In such circumstances Saddam had to adopt new tactics to restore the morale of the Iraqi forces. Saddam believed that the gaining of small victories could do that. This new mobile defense strategy was also suggested by the generals in the reactionary Arab regimes, he said.

Another officer, Lt Col 'Abdallah said the Iraqi attack in Mehran was nothing short of Iraqis falling into a trap soon after the Al-Faw defeat. He witnessed the defeat of the Iraqi Army at this point, he said.

Lt Col 'Ali Mahdi, successor to the commander of the 71st Iraqi Infantry Brigade, said the failure of the mobile defense strategy was also due to the ineffective tactics of the Iraqi regime at Mehran. It lost 17 brigades, thousands of casualties, and the capture by the Iranians of over 1,300 Iraqi soldiers. Those captured included several officers, NCO's, and commanders. This last incident caused a 100 percent plunge in Iraqi morale. He said that after losing Mehran the loss of important heights at Qalavizan, Zurbatiyah, and (Bareh) made the situation even worse.

Lt Col Sa'id also counted the reasons for the Iraqi defeat at Mehran. He said that the Iraqis had not expected the surprising and swift movement by the Iranian forces. This was the real reason for the Iraqi defeat in Mehran sector, he said.